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Newsletter



GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

December 5, 1958

To the Faculty, Committee Members and others associated with the Graduate School:

Through our students and teachers, we have windows on the diverse activities of Government and on many businesses and professions in greater Washington.

Last year, eight of our students came from the Executive Offices of the White House, 75 worked "up on the Hill," and others represented nearly every agency in the Federal Register.

As you would expect since most of our classes are held in Agriculture, USDA had the largest number (633). Other agencies with more than a hundred employees enrolled were Navy (517), Health, Education, and Welfare (445), Army (402), Commerce (303), Interior (185), Air Force (157), State (130), and Treasury (126).

For the first time on record the number of students employed by private firms (658) was greater than that of any single Government agency.

One explanation for the rise both in students in non-Government jobs and in people not gainfully employed (188) is that many of them are the husbands or wives of Federal workers who are taking courses, and they team up with them to go to school. More than a third of the group not in Federal service are taking courses in our department of technology, which includes engineering, surveying and mapping, fine and applied arts, and photography.

Another explanation is that some of these people are taking work to qualify for Civil Service jobs.

We welcome them. By coming here they help to make it possible for us to offer a broader and more varied program.

For one student out of five, this is a Graduate School. That is about 21 per cent of the people taking work here hold a bachelor's degree. Of these 14 per cent hold an advanced degree.

These are some of the findings in our Report of Educational Statistics released November 10. Copies are available for those of you who have an interest in the report.

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SCIENCE '58--Information from Earth Satellites. The speaker is Herbert Friedman of the Naval Research Laboratory. The date, December 10, 3 p.m., Jefferson auditorium.

First was Bowen C. Dees of the National Science Foundation. He set the stage for further discussions by raising the question that is critical for science in coming years--how can we convince young people that science is for them an interesting rewarding way of life?

Dr. Dees outlined the steps the Federal Government is taking to lead the movement for better trained teachers, improved teaching materials, and first-rate facilities for scientific education.

He underscored the importance of the Federal Defense Act that gives the U. S. Office of Education a mandate to do everything possible to encourage scientific education and provides funds that will eventually represent an investment of a billion dollars.

Deane B. Judd, a distinguished scientist in optics research at the National Bureau of Standards, our second speaker, reviewed advances in research on color vision.

Dr. Judd told of new findings that have come with the use of a larger field of colorimetry-- 10° as compared with 2° . This new approach permits small differences in color to be more easily perceived. The effect is as though a yellow filter had been removed.

The new data is changing the concept of colors in the spectrum. The findings suggest that the colors move from red back to yellow at the long wave end.

Another advance is the measurement of the reaction of two types of color blindness to luminosity. In each type the color blind has the same reaction as one with normal vision at one end of the spectrum. The reaction is depressed at the other end. In one type of color blindness the reaction is slightly depressed at the short wave end. In the other it is greatly depressed at the long wave end.

This information together with evidence that the human retina contains pigments that can be bleached has made it possible to estimate the mixtures of pigments in color blindness and in normal vision.

Improvements in measurement of reaction will remove one obstacle to wider use of color measurement in industry.

We are drawing on the rich resources of scientific leadership in the Federal Government for this series of lectures which will continue in January and February of '59. The 1959 Science series will be as follows:

January 7 - Dr. R. W. Hayward, National Bureau of Standards --
Elementary particles in parity

January 21 - Dr. Sydney Spector, National Heart Institute --
Interaction of monoamine oxidase inhibitors (psychic
energizers) with brain hormones

February 4 - Dr. R. E. Gibson, Applied Physics Laboratory -- Jet
propulsion

February 18 - Dr. W. W. Wainio, Rutgers University --
Intricacies of the mitochondrial cytochromes

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We have the green light from our General Administration Board to move ahead in planning custom-built classes, seminars, and institutes to meet the special needs of Federal agencies.

One of the first tasks will be to fill the post of Assistant Director with someone who is well qualified to carry responsibilities in this phase of our work.

We have suggested that initial classes or seminars be set up in management development, in communications, and in a program for training scientific aides.

We are also exploring opportunities to enlarge our correspondence courses so that we can offer wider services to Federal employees who do not live in communities where there are educational facilities.

As soon as the General Services Administration can get the space ready for us, we are moving our correspondence course files and some of our other records and work to two bays in the fourth wing of the basement of the South Building.

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It was our great privilege to have Don Paarlberg as our luncheon speaker, November 4. When school began, Dr. Paarlberg was a member of our General Administration Board. Soon afterwards he was named to succeed Gabriel Hauge as economic advisor to President Eisenhower.

In accepting our invitation, Dr. Paarlberg agreed to make an extemporaneous report on his trip to the international economic conference in New Delhi, a trip that included stops around the world.

Dr. Paarlberg was struck by the similarities he found among peoples rather than the differences. We glimpsed some of the prerogatives that come to one who is closely associated with a head of government, though Dr. Paarlberg is an exceptionally modest man and was unwilling to talk about his new assignment in the White House. We hope he will pay us a return visit with a report on the view from that eminence.

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Did you hear Houston Peterson of Rutgers talk on the characteristics of a great teacher at the Land-Grant College meetings? He listed four. A great

teacher, he said, is one who: (1) has the ability to interest students; (2) knows the content of the subject he teaches and has it organized; (3) is a master of communication; and (4) has a way of carrying students to other departments of the university and beyond the campus.

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AMONG OURSELVES

Our congratulations to Harold F. Breimyer, who led a slate of six candidates and was one of two elected as members-at-large of the Montgomery County (Md.) school board.

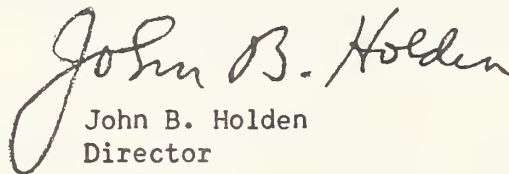
When Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy was awarded the title of "Outstanding Homemaker of the Year," the award, a silver bowl was presented by Margaret Steininger, president of the Home Fashion League of Washington, and instructor of our course in interior decoration. A picture of Miss Steininger and Mrs. Kennedy was in the Evening Star for November 13.

Everyone with whom I talked at the Adult Education Association in Cincinnati, November 5-10, expressed an interest in the Graduate School. Many were surprised to learn for the first time of its existence and its broad educational program, and the fact that it has been going for nearly 40 years.

We welcome new departmental committee members: John Wahlgren, chief of the Eurasian Language Branch, NSA, and Lionel Nelson, speech department, Montgomery Junior College, to our Committee on Languages and Literature; Max P. Reid, Office of Personnel, USDA, to our Committee on Public Administration; and Henry A. Sawchuk, Bureau of Public Roads, to our Committee on Technology.

A new book, "Modern Foreign Languages in the High School," was edited by Marjorie C. Johnston, specialist for foreign languages of the Office of Education and a long-time associate of the Graduate School.

Sincerely,


John B. Holden
Director